

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 00278 201059Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05
SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01
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FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9585
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USMISSION USUN
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 0278

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, XT
SUBJECT: BERNT CARLSSON, NEW SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE
SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL

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REF: LONDON 873

1. BERNT CARLSSON, NEWLY-ELECTED SECRETARY GENERAL OF
THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL, HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN SOCIAL
DEMOCRATIC POLITICS SINCE HIS STUDENT DAYS IN THE
MID-60'S. BORN NOVEMBER 21, 1938, CARLSSON
ATTENDED THE UNIVERSITY OF STOCKHOLM AND BEGAN MAKING HIS MARK AS

EARLY AS 1955 AS A LEADER IN THE SOCIALIST STUDENT MOVEMENT. FROM 1965-71 HE HELD VARIOUS POSITIONS IN THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND THE GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING A KEY POSITION AS POLITICAL SECRETARY TO THEN-MINISTER OF TRADE KJELL-OLOF FELDT, AN ASSOCIATION WHICH BROUGHT HIM WELL WITHIN THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC ELITE. FROM 1971-76 CARLSSON WAS INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND WORKED CLOSELY WITH OLOF PALME ON FOREIGN POLICY AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF SWEDISH CONTACTS.

2. IN 1972 CARLSSON VISITED THE US TO STUDY THE AMERICAN ELECTIONS, AND IN HIS CAPACITY AS INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY HE HAS TRAVELLED WIDELY THROUGH EUROPE. (HIS ENGLISH IS EXCELLENT.) HE HAS ALSO MADE TRIPS TO THE MIDDLE EAST AND LATIN AMERICA. THERE IS A GOOD CHANCE THAT CARLSSON WILL ACCEPT THE EMBASSY'S OFFER OF A LEADER GRANT FOR 1977; HE HAS INDICATED THAT HE WANTS TO GO, AND WILL ACCEPT UNLESS SI CHAIRMAN BRANDT OBJECTS.

3. CARLSSON IS UNMARRIED, AND THOUGH FRIENDLY ONCE HE IS MADE TO STAND STILL, IS NOT THE MOST SOCIABLE OR OUTGOING OF PEOPLE. HE IS SELDOM SEEN AT PARTIES, AND HAS A REPUTATION FOR BEING WELL-RAD, INTELLIGENT, AND DILIGENT. HE HAS BEEN A KEY CONTACT FOR THIS EMBASSY FOR YEARS, AND THOUGH HE IS OFTEN CRITICAL OF US POLICY, HE IS NOT AN IDEOLOGUE AND IS USUALLY OPEN TO DISCUSSION.

4. IN RECENT DISCUSSION OF HIS NEW POSITION WITH
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EMBASSY OFFICER, CARLSSON SAID HE HAS BEEN HAVING QUITE A BIT OF TROUBLE SORTING OUT THE ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF HIS MOVE TO LONDON. HE EXPECTS TO SPEND THE NEXT MONTH OR SO COMMUTING BETWEEN STOCKHOLM, BONN, AND LONDON, AND DOES NOT EXPECT TO BE SETTLED INTO HIS NEW JOB FOR SOME TIME. CARLSSON'S REPLACEMENT AS SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY, PALME AIDE PIERRE SCHORI, WILL ASSUME THE POST IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE.

5. IF CARLSSON'S STYLE AS SDP INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY CARRIES OVER TO HIS NEW JOB, HE CAN BE EXPECTED TO MOVE RAHTER METHODICALLY TO REORGANIZE THE SECRETARIAT AND BEGIN ATTEMPTING TO BROADEN THE SPHERE OF SI'S INFLUECNE, TO THE THIRD WORLD. HE HAS INDICATED HIS DESIRE TO MOVE THE SI FROM THE "GHETTO OF EUROPE" INTO A MORE COMPREHENSIVE UNION OF SOCIALIST PARTIES UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF A VIABLE AND RESPONSIVE ORGANIZATION.
SMITH

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